

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-20 are now pending in this application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 and 7-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0102935 to Auquier (hereafter “Auquier”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,354,114 to Kelman *et al.* (hereafter “Kelman”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Here, the combination of Auquier and Kelman would not provide a cross member component comprising, among other things, a metallic basic body, wherein the basic body is a metallic duct which is at least partially lined with plastic because these references do not disclose or suggest such a metallic base body, as recited in claim 1. Instead, as discussed in more detail below, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the combination of Auquier and Kelman would provide a plastic duct that has steel rods insert molded or embedded inside of the plastic duct. Claims 2-4 and 7-20 depend from claim 1.

Auquier discloses an air distribution system 10 that includes ducts 12, a blower 14, a conditioning system 16, a central housing 18, and a control center 19. See paragraph 0022 of Auquier. The central housing 18 serves as a central connecting point for the ducts 12 and encases a rotary distribution chamber 42. See paragraph 0023 of Auquier. Auquier discloses that the rotary distribution chamber 42 includes an outer chamber 44, an inner chamber 46, a shaft 48, an actuator 50, and a stabilizer 52. See paragraph 0023 of Auquier. The outer chamber 44 and the inner chamber 46 are made of plastic, while the shaft 48 is made of metal. See paragraphs 0029 and 0033 of Auquier. However, as noted on page 4 of the Office Action, Auquier does not disclose or suggest a basic body that is at least partially lined with plastic.

Kelman discloses an integrated cross car structural duct cluster 12, 112 that is made of steel rods 18, 118 insert molded or otherwise embedded in a molded body 20, 120 of thermoplastic material. See Kelman at col. 3, lines 29-53; col. 5, lines 3-15; and Figures 2 and 3. Kelman does not disclose or suggest a metallic basic body, wherein the basic body is a metallic duct which is at least partially lined with plastic, as recited in claim 1, because the duct cluster 12 of Kelman has a plastic body with steel rods 18, 118 insert molded or embedded within the plastic body. The plastic duct cluster 12 of Kelman is not a metallic body. Insert molding or embedding steel rods in a plastic duct does not transform the plastic duct into a metallic duct.

Thus, the combination of Auquier and Kelman does not render claims 1-4 and 7-20 to be unpatentable because the combination of Auquier and Kelman does not disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 1.

For at least the reasons discussed above, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 6

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Auquier and Kelman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,254,175 to Kim (hereafter “Kim”). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Kim fails to remedy the deficiencies of Auquier and Kelman discussed above in regard to independent claim 1, from which claims 5 and 6. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or

even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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